Record number of people with multiple jobs in June quarter

Media Release

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Source: Labour Account Australia, June 2022

The number of multiple job holders reached a record high of 900,000 people in the June quarter 2022, an increase of 4.3 per cent, according to figures released today by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS).

Lauren Ford, head of Labour Statistics at the ABS, said: “Around 900,000 people worked multiple jobs in the June quarter – 6.5 per cent of all employed people. This is the highest rate since the quarterly series commenced in 1994, and about 0.5 percentage points above its pre-pandemic level.

“Along with the 4.3 per cent increase in the number of multiple job holders, the number of jobs worked as secondary jobs also increased, by 5.5 per cent, and passed 1 million for the first time. This highlights that some people work more than two jobs at the same time.”

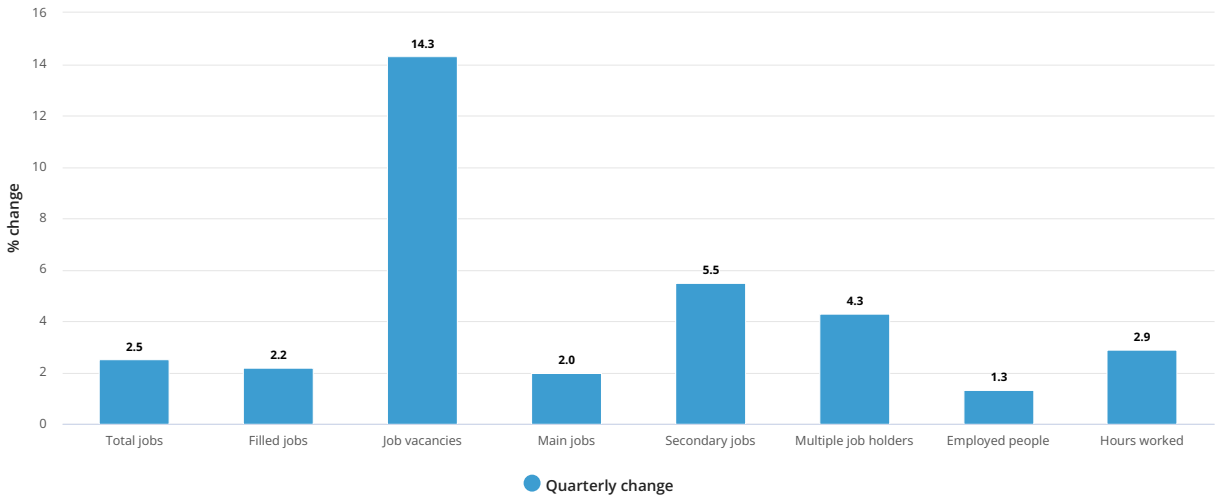
The number of filled jobs also reached a record high of just under 15 million, an increase of 2.2 per cent in the June quarter. There was also a 14.3 per cent increase in vacant jobs.

“The high number of both filled jobs and vacant jobs reflects the continued strong demand for workers across the economy, coupled with widespread labour shortages,” Ms Ford said.

Hours worked increased by 2.9 per cent for the June quarter, following the fall in the March quarter associated with the initial impacts of the Omicron variant and floods in Eastern Australia.

"The increase in secondary jobs and hours worked since early in the pandemic has coincided with a large fall in the number of part-time and full-time workers who would like to work more hours, with underemployment now at historical lows,” Ms Ford said.

Key statistics, June quarter 2022



Vacant jobs

Job vacancies increased by 14.3 per cent to 480,000 vacant jobs, to reach a record high. This was more than double the number of vacant jobs before the start of the pandemic.

“Labour shortages reflected the continued demand for workers across Australia, with vacant jobs in the June quarter accounting for 3.1 per cent of all jobs. Over the decade before the pandemic, vacant jobs generally accounted for around 1.4 per cent of all jobs,” Ms Ford said.

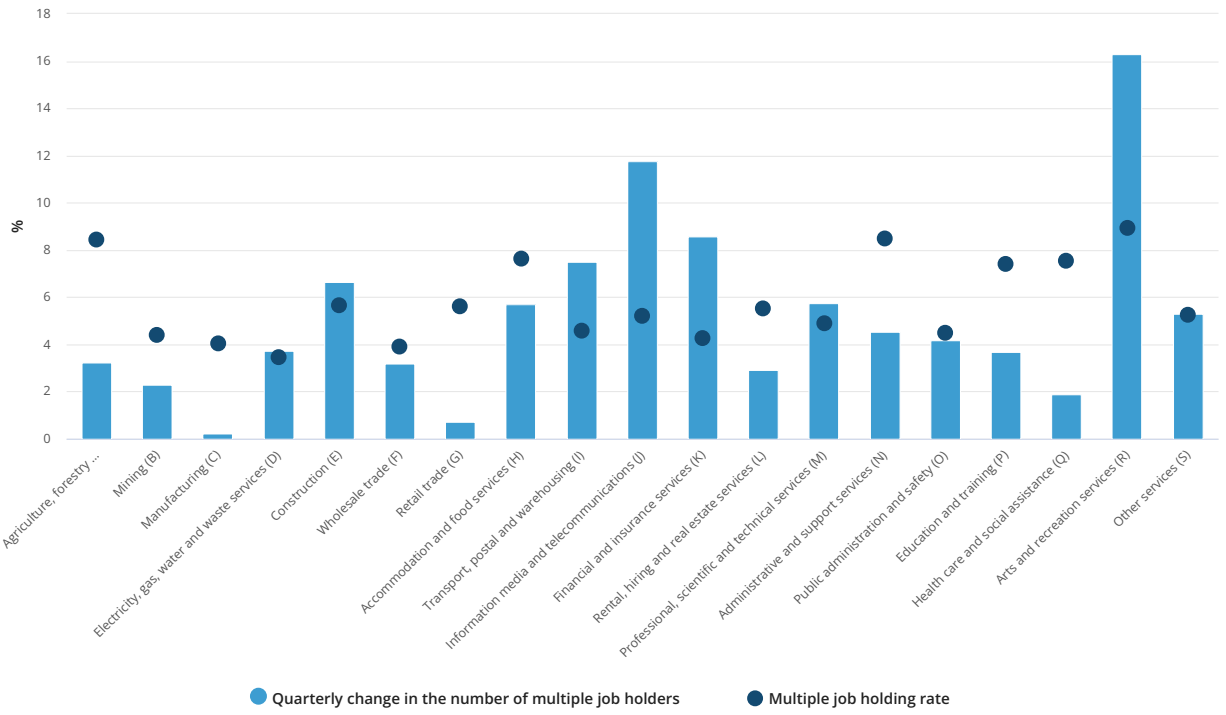
Industry

Filled jobs increased in 16 of the 19 industries, with the Arts and recreation services industry seeing the largest increase (up 10.3 per cent). The largest decline was in Manufacturing, which fell 1.6 per cent.

Multiple job holding rose in all industries in the June quarter 2022. The largest increase in the number of multiple job holders was in Arts and recreation services (16.3 per cent more people) and Information media and telecommunication (up 11.8 per cent).

Arts and recreation services also had the highest multiple job holding rate, increasing by 0.4 percentage points to 8.9 per cent in the June quarter. The rate was lowest in Electricity, gas, water and waste services, at 3.5 per cent.

Multiple job holding, by industry, June quarter 2022



Media notes

- People who would like to work more hours are those part-time or full-time employed people who would prefer, and are available, to work more than their usual hours.

- The Australian Labour Account complements other ABS measures to build a more comprehensive picture of the labour market. Labour Account provides the number of filled jobs at a point-in-time each quarter, while the annual Jobs in Australia provides insights into all jobs held throughout the year, and Labour Force Survey measures the number of people employed each month.
- Total jobs includes both 'filled jobs' (jobs with employed people in them) and 'vacant jobs' (jobs without employed people in them that were available to be filled and for which recruitment activity had been undertaken).
- Data contained in this media release refer to seasonally adjusted estimates, unless otherwise stated.
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